

~~SECRET~~

PAGE: 5306

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 31 JANUARY 1992.

CONTENTS

1. [REDACTED]
2. HAITI: NEGOTIATING PROCESS NEARING COLLAPSE [REDACTED]

2. HAITI: NEGOTIATING PROCESS NEARING COLLAPSE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MOST ENLISTED TROOPS AND SOME KEY BUSINESSMEN STRONGLY OPPOSE THEODORE'S NOMINATION. IN ADDITION, ARISTIDE'S INTENSIFIED CALLS FOR THE OUSTER OF ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO MOST POLITICAL AND MILITARY ELITES. THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH MUST APPROVE THE NOMINATION, IS BADLY SPLINTERED; ON MONDAY THE LOWER HOUSE

~~SECRET~~

756

~~SECRET~~

PAGE:5307

VOICED OBJECTIONS TO THE SENATE'S SUSPENSION OF OAS-SPONSORED TALKS UNTIL EARLY NEXT MONTH. [REDACTED]

FAR RIGHT ISOLATING CEDRAS

THE IMPASSE HAS CREATED A DANGEROUS POLITICAL VACUUM THAT THE FAR RIGHT IS EXPLOITING TO UNDERCUT CEDRAS AND INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE MILITARY. POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] APPARENTLY ENGINEERED LAST SATURDAY'S ATTACK ON THEODORE WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHER REGIME HARDLINERS. THE NEXT DAY HE REBUFFED CEDRAS'S DIRECTIVE TO PUNISH THE ATTACKERS. THE POLICE CHIEF [REDACTED] HAS BEEN RECEIVING MONEY FROM SEVERAL RIGHTWING BUSINESSMEN TO ENSURE HIS CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO ARISTIDE'S RETURN AND THE ALLEGIANCE OF HIS TROOPS. IN ADDITION TO CONTROLLING THE 1,200-MAN PORT-AU-PRINCE POLICE, FRANCOIS HAS RECRUITED ABOUT 150 HIRED THUGS HE CAN CALL ON FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION AND SELECTIVE ACTS OF VIOLENCE. HE [REDACTED] ALSO CAN COUNT ON SOME SUPPORT WITHIN KEY MILITARY UNITS IN THE CAPITAL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] REGIME LEADERS, CASHIERED ARMY OFFICERS, AND DUVALIERISTS ARE TRYING TO BUY SUPPORT AMONG THE TROOPS, FURTHER ISOLATING CEDRAS. MODERATE MILITARY OFFICERS, WHO ARE LOYAL TO HIM, [REDACTED] FEEL THREATENED BY GROWING DUVALIERIST INFLUENCE IN THE ARMY AND ARE CONSIDERING MOVING AGAINST FRANCOIS AND HIS CRONIES, [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

BAZIN, WHO HAS INFLUENCE IN THE SENATE, WOULD LIKE TO BE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF AND [REDACTED] HAS BEEN WORKING AGAINST THEODORE'S NOMINATION. [REDACTED]

AS RIGHTWING EXTREMISTS FLEX THEIR MUSCLE AND TURN TO VIOLENCE, MODERATES MAY BE INCREASINGLY TEMPTED TO CAST THEIR LOT WITH THEM. ALTHOUGH THE REGIME MAY STRING OUT NEGOTIATIONS A LITTLE LONGER, HARDLINERS, IN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, PROBABLY WILL IMPOSE THEIR OWN SOLUTION, SUCH AS CALLING A NEW ELECTION, WHICH WOULD PERMANENTLY BLOCK ARISTIDE'S RETURN. [REDACTED]

BOX

# FACTORS INFLUENCING HAITIAN MIGRATION

MOST HAITIAN MIGRANTS ARE ECONOMIC REFUGEES HOPING TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN THE US. ACCORDING TO THE US COAST GUARD, THE TYPICAL MIGRANT PICKED UP IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS HAS BEEN AN UNMARRIED MALE BLUE-COLLAR WORKER IN HIS MIDTWENTIES WHO RECENTLY LOST HIS JOB AND CLAIMS TO BE SEEKING A BETTER LIFE IN THE US. OVER THE PAST WEEK, HOWEVER, WHOLE FAMILIES INCREASINGLY HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MIGRANTS MOST MIGRANTS RELOCATED TO VENEZUELA AND HONDURAS, BUT SOME WHO WERE "SCREENED OUT" AT GUANTANAMO HAVE REQUESTED REPATRIATION, REINFORCING THE VIEW THAT THEY ARE NOT FLEEING PERSECUTION OR STARVATION. SEVERAL FACTORS MAY HAVE SPARKED THE MOST RECENT SURGE:

PERCEPTIONS OF US POLICY. HAITIANS PROBABLY ARE AWARE THAT LARGER NUMBERS OF MIGRANTS ARE BEING LET INTO THE US. ENTREPRENEURS WHO ASSIST THE MIGRANTS PROBABLY ARE PUBLICIZING THE FACT TO ENTICE MORE CUSTOMERS.

WEATHER. BECAUSE MIGRANT BOATS ARE ILL EQUIPPED FOR THE HIGH SEAS, FLOWS HAVE TAPERED OFF IN BAD WEATHER. ACCORDING TO THE COAST GUARD, THE WEATHER HAS RECENTLY IMPROVED.

BUSINESS AND REGIME ENCOURAGEMENT. BUSINESS AND REGIME LEADERS, DISPLEASED BY THE RECENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THEODORE'S PRIME-MINISTERSHIP, MAY AGAIN BE TRYING TO SEND A SIGNAL TO WASHINGTON BY ENCOURAGING LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

IMPACT OF THE EMBARGO. THE EMBARGO HAS HELPED CREATE A LARGE POOL OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WHO WOULD NOW BE TEMPTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF WORK. MOREOVER, POPULAR HOPES FOR ARISTIDE'S RETURN--AND A QUICK LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO--PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DASHED BY THE STALEMATE OVER THE THEODORE NOMINATION. [REDACTED]

#8694

~~SECRET~~